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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE

Organization

1. There were two battalions at the Calarasi Training Center; one was known as the Naval Infantry Battalion ("Batalionul de Infanterie Marina" - B I M), the other was known as the Mixed Naval Battalion ("Batalionul Mixt Marina" - B M M). I am unable to explain the reason for the different names of these two battalions, since both battalions were organized and operated in the same manner. I heard rumors in 1946 that the naval infantry units and the naval engineer units would be consolidated into so called mixed naval units (ie naval infantry and naval engineer battalions would be combined and called Mixed Naval Regiments).
2. The total number of personnel, including both battalions, was estimated at approximately two thousand. Out of this number, approximately 120 were instructors (commissioned and non-commissioned officers), while the rest were recruits. Each battalion was composed of three companies (Companii); each company was composed of six platoons; each platoon (pluton) was subdivided into four groups (grupe); there were 15 men in each group. Approximately 30 commissioned officers and 30 non-commissioned officers were assigned to each battalion (the majority of them were instructors). The ranks of the commissioned officers ranged from ensign (sub-locotenent) to captain (capitan comandor). The commissioned officers were drawn from the navy, naval engineer units, and the naval infantry units.

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3. A political officer was assigned to each company. These political officers were directly subordinate to the training center political officer, who was a lt col from the Tudor Vladimirescu Division (army). The commanding officer of the training center was a captain (capitan commandor) in the Rumanian Navy. [redacted]

Location

4. The training center, was located approximately one km west of the town of Calarasi. The training area was located on the Danube shore about six km upstream from the town's periphery. It was devoid of any structures, and covered with grass.

Training

5. The basic training was done in platoons and groups. Ordinarily, each platoon was under the supervision of one commissioned officer and one NCO. During the three month training period, Mauser and Mannlicher rifles, Oita or Orita (Rumanian manufacture) submachine guns and Mauser machine guns were used. For the first two weeks the recruit was drilled without rifles, and was instructed in the performance of guard duty. During the next two months, he received training in the firing of rifles, submachine guns, and machine guns. He was also instructed in grenade (blanks) throwing, bayonet attack, and attack practices. Marches, including night marches, were undertaken. Swimming instructions were also given at this training center. No instructions were given in mortar firing, artillery firing or chemical warfare. At the end of each month, each man had to qualify in the firing of the various weapons. First month firing tests were done with the rifle (10 rounds; five for practice, and five for qualification). Second month firing tests were done with the rifle (five rounds for practice, and five for qualification), and the sub-machine gun (one clip of approximately 32 rounds, fired individually, and then both guns fired in bursts). At the end of the third month, firing tests were done with the rifle (five rounds for practice, and five for qualification), sub-machine gun (one clip of 32 rounds; fired individually and in bursts), and machine gun (15 rounds; five fired individually, and 10 in bursts).
6. Night marches were undertaken about four times during the three month training period. The distance covered during these marches was approximately 60 km. The marches were made with full pack (40 kg including rifle). These marches started around midnight 60 km distance was covered in five or six hours of forced march, in cadence all the way, and with only 15 minutes rest. No one was allowed to fall out once the march started. The day following the night march was devoted to further field training.

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7. The following is the daily schedule during the three month training period:

0500 hrs reveille
 0500-0530 hrs dressing and 10 minutes of physical exercises
 0530-0600 hrs breakfast (consisting of 150 to 200 grams of black bread and ersatz coffee)
 0600-0630 hrs march to training area (after the first two weeks, with rifle, ammunition pouch and bayonet)
 0630-1000 hrs training, with 10 minute breaks every hour
 1000-1100 hrs political training, given by the political officer - primarily reading newspapers and talks on the Soviet Union
 1100-1130 hrs march back to the barracks
 1130-1200 hrs free time
 1200-1230 hrs dinner, consisting of bread (500 grams issued for 24 hrs) 200 grams of corn meal, soup (generally cabbage), beans or potatoes, meat (beef) three times a week
 1230-1400 hrs free time
 1400-1430 hrs march back to the training area
 1430-1700 hrs training with 10 minute breaks every hour
 1700-1830 hrs march back to the barracks
 1830-1900 hrs free time
 1900-1930 hrs supper; consisting of bread, soup (cabbage or potatoes), oatmeal, or instead of oatmeal, boil potatoes or beans
 2000-2100 hrs evening program (program de seara), consisting of cleaning of equipment, cleaning and pressing of clothing, and inspection of equipment and clothing by the instructing officer or NCO
 2100-0500 hrs sleep

8. The weekly schedule is described as follows:

Monday: the usual training program was given, as described above
 Tuesday: the usual training program was given, as described above
 Wednesday: the usual training was followed till 1300 hrs; after 1300, an administrative program (programul administrative) was given, which consisted of cleaning the courtyards and barracks, cleaning and inspection of equipment, washing and pressing of clothing
 Thursday: the usual training program was followed
 Friday: the usual training program was followed
 Saturday: the usual training program was followed till 1400 hrs; after 1400 hrs, troops bathed in the town's public bath and cleaned equipment and clothing. Usually, during Saturday afternoons, there was an inspection by the commanding officer, at which time the troops could present their complaints. From 1700 to 1800 hrs there was the usual political program. About once a month (after supper on Saturdays) each man, by rotation was taken to see the movies in town, free of charge.

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Sunday:

the regular program was followed till 0600 hrs; from 0600 to 1200 hours the administrative program was followed, including cleaning equipment, and cleaning and pressing uniforms. At this time the platoon commanders inspected the weapons. During Sunday afternoon, the troops were given free time; however, only five men from one platoon, (by rotation) were able to go to town at one time. Curfew was at 2100 hrs. During the training period, one man was usually able to go in town twice. Taps was sounded at 2100 hrs.

- 25X1X 9. The above program was probably enforced during the winter months, also. During inclement weather, theoretical instructions were given in the barracks. [redacted] no maneuvers or combined training with other units took place.

10. During the three month basic training period, no furloughs were given. An exception was made in case the father or mother of the trainee died, and then only if the telegram announcing the death was endorsed by the military or police authorities at the trainee's place of residence. A maximum of three days leave was given in such cases.

Uniforms

11. The uniforms worn by the navy recruits during the three month basic training period were of regular navy cut, although they were of thick O D wool material (as in the ground forces uniforms). The cap had a black band with the inscription "Marina Militara" (Navy) in gold. The jacket or blouse was O D, cut in navy style, and had an O D collar with three dark brown stripes. This blouse was worn with either an O D cloth belt, or a brown leather belt, approximately 10 cm above the lower hem of the blouse. The trousers were also O D, and were tucked into black leather leggings. The shoes were heavy and black. The overcoat was O D, cut in navy style, and had a red anchor cloth insignia on the collar lapels. The O D navy uniforms were worn without neckties, while the navy blue uniforms were worn with a necktie. Buttons on both the blue and O D uniforms were brass and had an anchor insignia. When the basic training was finished and the sailor arrived at his permanent station, the O D uniform was turned in and the usual blue uniform was issued.
12. The only vehicles available at the Calarasi naval training center were supply trucks. There was no radio station at the training center; telephone facilities, however, were available.

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